

The Brooklyn Paper

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Bathing beauties Nicole Salm (left) and Nicole Sciarrillo are the Brooklyn Peaches — the borough's own synchronized swimming duo that also teaches a class at the Downtown YMCA.

GIRLS 'N SYNC

Duo bringing pool-dancing back

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

A pair of sultry water ballerinas with fishnet gloves, old Hollywood flair, and a boatload of Brooklyn chutzpah has taken the plunge to bring synchronized swimming to the borough.

Nicole Salm and Nicole Sciarrillo are the Brooklyn Peaches, an aquatic duo that's adding splashes of Esther Williams to chic soirées and fitness classes while enchanting new acolytes — which have included a 70-year-old tattooed grandma and one brave male — with their humble approach to a time-honored art.

"We don't go crazy with sequins or appliqué like competitive performers," said Sciarrillo, 37, a grad student from Carroll Gardens. "They're intimidating and smiling too hard."

The amateur duo began moonlighting as urban mermaids in 2010 after meeting a ballerina in Paris who made them nostalgic for the swim and dance classes of their youth. Today, they've turned the Brooklyn Peaches into a creative project: Salm and Sciarrillo teach a class at the Court Street YMCA Downtown and the Brooklyn Peaches have appeared at an arts festival in the Rockaways, a winter pool party at a Park Avenue hotel, and an indie rock show at the Midtown Holiday Inn.

"We don't want to compete," said Salm, a 33-year-old digital sales rep and former dancer from Ditmas Park. "We want it to be fun, and we encourage all the other teams and swimmers out there to join us."

The Peaches come to class dressed

to thrill, donning black bathing suits, fingerless mesh gloves and red lipstick before cavorting to such classic numbers as "The Tide Is High" by Blondie, and Peggy Lee's "Fever." Their uber moves — including the ballet leg (where a swimmer extends a leg perpendicular to the water while floating on her back) or the eggbeater (rotating lower legs in opposite directions) — gives them a wow workout without the drab drill.

"It feels like recess after a long day!" Sciarrillo said. "There's something exhilarating about getting in a pool and having the opportunity to perform and

See **PEACHES** on page 13

BETTING ON CONEY

Beep: Bring casinos to the People's Playground

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

Wonder Wheel, meet the roulette wheel.

Borough President Markowitz wants to see casinos on Coney Island if Gov. Cuomo makes good on his plan to legalize table gaming in the state.

"Casino gambling ... would bring jobs and revenue to potential locations in New York City, especially Coney Island, which is a natural," Markowitz said in a release.

In the latest lofty vision for a revitalized Coney Island, gambling would help draw visitors to an area that the city hopes to turn into a glitzy, year-round recreation destination boasting amusements, restaurants, arcades and hotels.

"It could be the savior for Coney Island as a major destination," said the neighborhood's unofficial mayor Dick Zigun, who runs Side-shows by the Seashore.

Zigun hopes casinos will one day do business on a swath of land currently slated for residential use, which



SLOTS TO LOVE: Borough President Markowitz (left) wants casinos in Coney Island — and this could be what it would look like if a big-time gambling hall set up shop on Surf Avenue.

had been largely set aside for amusements before the Bloomberg administration controversially rezoned the neighborhood in 2009.

"I'd like to rezone the rezoning — to take that from condos and turn it into casinos," Zigun said.

But other community leaders say

casinos are too much of a gamble to endorse.

"I just want to make sure that people in the community don't get hurt," said Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island). "People get addicted to gambling; it's a problem."

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz

(D-Sheepshead Bay) cited a 1999 study that found areas within 50 miles of casinos have a 50 percent greater instance of gambling addiction and an 18 percent higher bankruptcy rate.

"While we might be looking at an

See **GAMBLE** on page 13

Preachin' from the Book of Hov

Clinton Hill pastor gets inspiration from Jay-Z

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

A new pastor in Clinton Hill gets his gospel straight from Jay-Hova.

Presbyterian minister Jamison Galt kicked off his inaugural sermon at Christ Church on Lafayette Avenue on Sunday night, preaching to a crowd of roughly 100 souls about Jay-Z, the self-described savior of hip-hop.

"What's a god to a non-believer who don't believe in anything?" Galt asked, reciting the chorus from "No Church in the Wild," a smash single by Kanye West, Jay-Z and crooner Frank Ocean.

"You should know these words — one of your own prophets has said them, a neighborhood son," the 34-year-old said. "Shawn Carter, more popularly known as Jay-Z."

An analysis of "No Church in the Wild" conducted by The Brooklyn Paper and corroborated by the hip hop experts at RapGenius.com indicates that Jay-Z did not utter those lyrics; Ocean belted them out instead.

Even before Galt's young congregation moved into Emmanuel Baptist Church at the corner of St. James Place, his preaching made headlines when The Local, a Fort Greene blog, reported that

he would use his first public sermon to rail against Jay-Z's sinful lyrics.

But Galt said that the blog got it all wrong — there's meaning to be had in the Book of Hov.

"I wasn't going to take on Jay-Z, because I really like his art," said Galt, who preached in private homes for the past two years before shacking up in the Clinton Hill church. "He grew up here — he knows what it's like to experience the good and the bad and to talk about it. He's expressing what it's like to live in the city for most people today."

See **JAY-Z** on page 5



Clinton Hill Pastor Jamison Galt's inaugural sermon referenced Brooklyn's most famous emcee.

Tree people uprooted



Parks officials booted homeless people from Prospect Park trees — and put up tape to keep them out.



Community Newspaper Group / Natalie O'Neill

Homeless kicked out of park

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The city wants Prospect Park's homeless tree dwellers to make like a tree — and leave.

Parks Department employees removed possessions belonging to a group of homeless people living inside rotten trees on the east side of the lake after wildlife advocates complained the shanties were destroying a fragile ecosystem.

On Thursday, witnesses spotted dozens of workers — rangers and park enforcement officers among them — arrive in SUVs and pick-up trucks, then clear out clothing and bedding from a homeless encampment where a small colony of makeshift tree houses popped up in early December.

"Vehicles were everywhere, circling like vultures," said Anne-Katrin Titze, who frequents the park so often she might as well live there, too.

The Prospect Park Alliance says it will remove at least four of the inhabited trees because they are not healthy.

The sweep comes after The Brooklyn Paper reported on a colony of transients using more than a dozen hollow trees near the Tennis Center for shelter and storage — leaving behind junk that makes the lake dirty and irks park advocates, who say the trash is bad for mother nature.

A spokesman for the park said the



How we broke the story.

city works with the Department of Homeless Services to keep people from living in the greenspace.

"Camping is illegal in parks and any indication of a campsite is removed when found," said Paul Nelson, of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Nelson could not confirm which other city agencies were involved on Thursday night.

It's not the first time authorities have forced living beings from Prospect Park. Last March, police, the Department of Homeless and park enforcement officers all took part in clearing out a six-foot-tall shanty built from twigs near the Vanderbilt Street entrance.

And in 2010, federal agents entered the park and slaughtered more than 250 geese in a controversial extermination intended to keep the birds from interfering with airplane flight paths.



Alton Alburo is devastated by marauders who have been smashing fences in Fort Greene Park.

Park vandals on the loose in Ft. Greene

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

A mysterious saboteur torched some leftover Christmas trees in Fort Greene Park on Sunday night — an incident that park watchdogs say is part of a recent spree of vandalism in the vexed oasis.

Sometime after 5 pm, the

culprit set fire to 25 castoff pines near the Washington Park entrance, damaging a mature horse chestnut tree, blackening a park wall, and destroying a plastic bulletin board.

Parks Department spokeswoman Meghan Lalor wouldn't speculate on how

See **PARK** on page 5

'Farewell, sweet doggy'

Brooklyn Heights says goodbye to Rocco the pet-shop dog

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Rocco, the beloved canine inspiration behind a popular Brooklyn Heights pet shop, died of bone cancer on Jan. 5. He was 8 (in human years).

The sad-eyed Italian Mastiff — who was rescued from an abusive owner only to become the namesake of Rocco and Jezebel for Pets — was

ethanized after a six-month battle with the illness, according to his human family members.

"He'd always come lean against you and look up with those eyes — he was a big mush," said Andrea Demetropoulos, owner of the dog and the shop. "He was a phenomenal creature."

Demetropoulos first met her furry pal at an animal



Rocco was taken from us way too soon.

rescue booth on Court Street seven years ago, just days after workers saved the puppy from an apparently sadistic household in DUMBO.

"He was beaten, bloody and broken," she said. "They had completely tortured him."

Demetropoulos brought the filthy and emaciated pooch home only to face

See **ROCCO** on page 6

Feds: To clean canal, city must stop using it as toilet

By Daniel Bush
The Brooklyn Paper

The Gowanus Canal will remain filthy even after a costly federal cleanup so long as the city continues to allow raw sewage to spew into the polluted waterway, local watchdogs and the Environmental Protection Agency allege.

The feds plan to dredge the Gowanus to clear out decades of industrial pollutants, but Washington officials claim their expensive Superfund plan won't



amount to much unless the city upgrades the area's aging sewer system, which is overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms — resulting in the discharge of noxious-smelling sewage into the putrid waterway.

"There's no real point of dredging and capping if you don't get at the sources of contamination,"

said EPA spokesman Elias Rodriguez.

As a part of a Superfund project intended to scrape toxic sludge from the bottom of the canal, the federal government can't force the city to stop the so-called combined sewer overflow, which dumps 377 million gallons of stormwater and human waste into the 1.8-mile canal each year, according to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Washington authorities have used federal clean-water regulations to require the Bloomberg ad-



The federal government says the Gowanus Canal will still be a filthy mess after dredging because the city allows raw sewage to flow into it.

ministration to launch a \$180-million upgrade of nearby sewers in an attempt to reduce the ghastly effluvia by a projected 34 percent — but environmentalists say that isn't enough.

"For a real cleanup of the canal, the city needs to address this issue," said Gary Reilly, the chairman of Community Board Six's Environmental Committee. "We have to stop treating the Gowanus Canal like a sewer."

The EPA has even asked the city to contribute more to the sewer overhaul.

City officials confirmed they have been in discussions with the EPA, but say they are meeting their environmental obligations, blaming manufactured gas plants for most of the pollution.

"From our standpoint, the evidence clearly indicates that the primary sources [of contamination] are the former industrial plants on the canal, and not ongoing sewer overflows," Farrell Sklerov, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental

See **GOWANUS** on page 11



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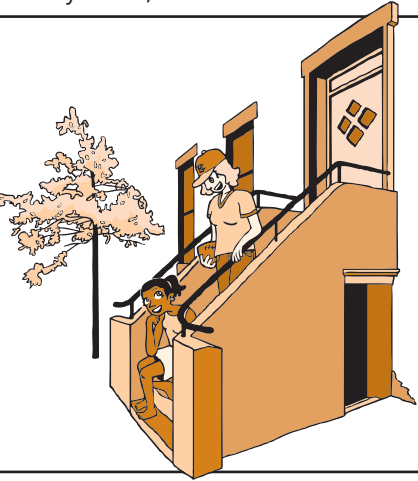
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THE stoop

BUSHWICK



Police busted an Occupy Wall Street-friendly media headquarters on Tuesday, arresting six people at 13 and 15 Thames St. in Bushwick.

De-occupied in Bushwick

Police kick anarchist journalists out of home

By Eli Rosenberg
for The Brooklyn Paper

The occupation will be televised. Police raided the Bushwick headquarters of an Occupy Wall Street media outlet, arresting six workers who recorded the incident and broadcast it live on the Internet. Cops claim they booted the protest-focused web broadcasters at GlobalRevolution.tv and other squatters because they were living and working in a Thames Street loft in spite of a vacate order. But the camera-toting reporters on all things 99 percent claim they were been forced out over politics — with cops taunting how they’d no longer “occupy” the loft they called home. “The police didn’t use the words evict or foreclose or vacate,” said Nikki Schiller, a GlobalRevolution.tv organizer who witnessed the raid but avoided arrest. “They said you cannot ‘occupy’ this building.” The building near the corner of Bogart Street has long been a home base for anarchists and like-minded artists. Despite two Department of Buildings vacate orders dating back to March, the web journalists with GlobalRevolution.tv — a site that aggregates internet video of Occupy protests, talks, and, now, raids — have squatted there for at least two months. On Monday the city enforces the vacate orders. A notice posted on Monday night on the Department of Buildings website warned against “imminently perilous” conditions at the building. But the web journalists refused to go, making the case — unsurprisingly in a live internet video — that they have a legal right to squat in the building. “We decided we’re going to keep occupying the space,” said Vlad Teichberg, the group’s de facto leader, who claimed the eviction was “illegal and unlawful.” Police begged to differ. At 1:30 pm on Tuesday, officers kicked down doors, slammed laptops shut and hauled tenants — three of them affiliated with GlobalRevolution.tv and three other alleged squatters — into a police van while cameras rolled, streaming footage over the internet. Police would not confirm the number arrests or comment about whether they knew they were breaking up an Occupy-affiliated media organization, but an NYPD spokeswoman said violating a vacate order is a serious offense. “If there is a vacate order on a building, then police will arrest people who enter it,” said Det. Cheryl Crispin. Teichberg was rung up on six charges: obstructing governmental administration, attempted assault, menacing, harassment and two counts of trespassing, according to the District Attorney’s office. Video of the bust shows several building inhabitants milling about on the sidewalk and offering their hands for cops to cuff. Suspects who were released at around 10 pm on Wednesday blasted cops for clamping down on the Occupiers’ movement and the means in which they spread the word. “Independent media worldwide is being attacked,” said Teichberg said in a video after his release Thursday. “Globalrevolution ... has been targeted.” But GlobalRevolution.tv says the revolution will continue online. “As long as we have a computer and internet, our site is going to keep streaming,” said Victoria Sobel, a member of the GlobalRevolution.tv team.

PARK SLOPE

P’Park’s notorious bike path claims yet another walker

By Natalie O’Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

A cyclist struck a pedestrian, breaking the 62-year-old walker’s hand on a dangerous section of roadway in Prospect Park where the city is trying to slow bikers by forcing them into a narrow lane lined with traffic cones. The biker ran into the passer-by at around 4 pm on Saturday on West Lake Drive near the Vanderbilt Street Playground, police said — marking the second serious accident since the street safety measure was put in place two months ago. In November, the Department of Transportation deployed two dozen bright orange, barrel-sized cones intended to tame the roadway after bike accidents left two pedestrians with severe brain injuries, sparking a lawsuit against the city. Last month, a cyclist wiped out next to the cones. The orange drums are supposed to keep cyclists from reaching dangerous speeds on the downhill section of the street, but some bike advocates worry they are making the road more chaotic. “There’s less room to ma-



A biker broke a pedestrian’s hand in another crash on a problematic Prospect Park hill where the city has tried to slow two-wheelers with barrels.

neuver — so there’s a sense [the cones] make things more dangerous,” said cycling booster Eric McClure. Not only do the cones give cyclists less room to avoid obstacles, they also obstruct bikers’ vision — making it harder to spot pedestrians who are trying to cross the lane, said McClure. “The city is trying to do the right thing — but I’m not sure it’s actually helping,” he said. On a recent Brooklyn Paper visit to the hill, cyclists appeared confused about whether they should ride between the cones or beside them — especially since the barrels sit next to

a lane marked with a bicycle symbol, which, confusingly, cyclists are only supposed to use during the few weekday hours when the park is open to cars. The city insists that using cones to constrict cyclists is the best way to keep the park safe because it “decreases the distance a pedestrian must cross” in front of the bikers, according to a spokeswoman from the Department of Transportation. Other new safety measures include a more-visible crosswalk and a sign warning cyclists to yield for pedestrians, she added. But traffic engineering experts say more could be done

to make the road safe for cyclists and pedestrians. To keep cyclists from going too fast, the city could force bicyclists to take a zigzagging path on the hill, requiring them to cut their speed before they start their descent, said Jamie Parks, a traffic planner at Kittleson and Associates, an engineering firm that specializes in bicycle transit in bike-loving cities including Portland, Ore. “One option is to physically curve the path on the hill to slow down cyclists,” Parks said. Or the city could install speed bump-like devices, like rumble strips for bikes, he said. Those strips would be similar to what already exist at pedestrian crossings along the controversial Prospect Park West bike lane. Prospect Park officials see the current street design as a work in progress, saying they will continue to monitor the hill. “There may not be one perfect solution,” Prospect Park Alliance president Emily Lloyd said at a recent meeting. “But we want to be thinking about them.”

BOERUM HILL

But what about the planters!

Residents: Jail visitors will hide drugs, shivs on stoops

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

Boerum Hill residents fear their lawns and planters will once again become stash spots for drugs, knives and other jail contraband when the Brooklyn House of Detention reopens next month. Locals worry that jail visitors will use their stoops to store illicit goods while they catch up with detainees at the 759-bed Atlantic Avenue facility, which has been closed for nearly a decade. “I’ll definitely tell my kids to avoid Atlantic Avenue,” said Tad Hills, who claims he had a bad experience on the street when jailbirds yelled at his children a few years ago. “Especially when I’ve found what looked like a baggie of heroin in my planter before.” Corrections officials shuttered the House of D in 2003 due to budget cuts, but always planned to reopen the facility to ease the strain on Rikers Island. In the years since, the authorities used the jail to temporarily house prisoners during the day and to shuttle them through tunnels connected to criminal courts. In February, the resurrected pen near Smith Street will begin housing pre-trial detainees from Brooklyn and



The House of D.

Staten Island, and inmates serving sentences of a year or less. Neighbors aren’t looking forward to it — especially those who recall when their block housed a cellblock. “We all remember prisoners in shackles being paraded down residential streets,” said Howard Kolins, president of

the Boerum Hill Association. “This is something that families don’t want to confront.” But this time, some claim they won’t let the lockup’s operations tarnish their streets. Working with the jail, they’ve even created an advisory council. “Everyone in the neighborhood knew this day was coming,” said Kolins, one of the council’s six members. “We plan to keep the police and the Department of Corrections on their toes.” The council, however, can only make “nonbinding recommendations” concerning jail operations. Boerum Hill has gone increasingly upscale since the detention center shut down, with condos and the boutique Nu Hotel rising around

the corner — though there is a bail bondsman next door. Sandy Balboza, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association, said she was more worried about House of D workers taking up parking spaces used by Atlantic Avenue merchants, with as many as 100 jail employees working during peak shifts. Before the jail closed, corrections officers would routinely park on the sidewalk and block fire hydrants and handicapped spots, Balboza claims. “The Department of Corrections is in the Boerum Hill community and the community needs to be respected,” said Balboza, who claims corrections officers routinely parked on the sidewalk and blocked fire hydrants and handicapped spots before the jail closed. “We’re going to make sure that we have a dialogue on these issues.” Corrections spokeswoman Sharman Stein said the jail will try to be the kind of neighbor all Brooklynites wish they had. “The facility is here, we have need for it, and we’re going to be the best neighbors we can be,” she said.

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Crooks claim to be raising money for AIDS

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook
Two thugs pretending to be collecting donations for AIDS victims raided a Court Street pet shop on Jan. 6 — but cops say they corralled the dirty dogs before they could get too far.
Workers at the Brownstone Aquarium Pet Shop near President Street said a 16-year-old boy and an 18-year-old woman entered the store at 11 am, claiming to represent an AIDS charity seeking donations.
A worker at the store said he wasn't allowed to give out donations and the two left. But the boy returned a few moments later, pretending to have a gun in his pocket, according to employees.
The teenager emptied the till and ran to his partner, who was standing by an idling livery cab, but Police Officer Patrick Barbato and Sergeant Michael Galletta, who just happened to be driving by, interceded and arrested the two without incident.
Sandman sneak
A thief crept into a Henry Street home on Jan. 3, taking a 64-year-old woman's purse.
The victim said the thief wiggled through a window of the apartment, between First and Second places, sometime between 8:30 pm and 12:30 am, taking a black purse containing the woman's check

book, digital camera, and a pink umbrella.
Creeper catch
A goon forced his way into a Woodhull Street resident's home on Jan. 3 — but was caught by the apartment tenant.
The victim told police that he and his wife woke up when the heard a noise in their home between Hicks and Henry streets at around midnight.
When they went to investigate, they saw the silhouette of a man racing into the kitchen — and out of an open window that led to the building's fire escape.
CVS crack
A thief pried his way into a Court Street CVS on Jan. 2, taking 175 packs of cigarettes and an assortment of prescription drugs.
Someone forced open the back door of the store between Pacific and Amity streets at 1:25 am, employees told police.
— **Thomas Tracy**

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Big chase
A crook stole two laptops from an apartment on 15th Street on Jan. 8.
The 30-year-old victim told cops that she left her home near Fifth Avenue at 2:30 pm, came back three hours later and spotted a 5-foot-4-inch man in her house. He bolted, so she

POLICE BLOTTER
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chased him into the street and snatched back some of her stuff — but he still got away with two Mac laptops.
Game lost
A quick-moving thief swiped an iPod from a strap-hanger on Seventh Avenue on Jan. 2.
The 44-year-old victim told cops that she was playing a game on her iPod while riding the F train at 4 am, when the jerk tried to grab the electronic gadget from her. She held on tight — so he punched her in the face and then ran off the train with device, leaving her with a swollen eye.
Safety first?
A weirdo stole a steering wheel airbag from a car parked on Third Street on Jan. 5.
The victim told cops that she left her gray 2010 Lincoln near Eighth Avenue, came back a few days later, and discovered that her passenger-side window was broken — and the airbag was gone.
Wallet weasel
A pickpocket swiped a wallet on Sixth Avenue on Jan. 3.
The 31-year-old victim told cops that she was walking to the subway near Ber-

gen Street at 12:45 pm, when a man bumped into her. She reached for her black leather wallet five minutes later and noticed it was gone — along with the Medicaid card inside.
— **Natalie O'Neill**

77TH PRECINCT
Prospect Heights
Pool sharked
A crook jacked a fancy cell-phone from a bar-goer on Vanderbilt Avenue on Jan. 4.
The 29-year-old victim told cops that he set his iPhone on a table at Branded Saloon near Bergen Street at 1 am, then headed to the pool table. He came back an hour later and discovered the \$750 phone gone.
iSwipe
A thief snatched some electronic goodies from a car parked on Eastern Parkway on Jan. 5.
The 35-year-old victim told cops that he parked his white 2006 Ford van near Washington Avenue at 12:15 pm, then came back an hour later and discovered the lock on his door was busted — and his \$800 iPad and camera were gone.
Volvo smash
A jerk stole an iPod from a car on Grand Avenue on Jan. 2.
The 24-year-old victim told cops that he parked his black 2004 Volvo near St. Marks Avenue at 4 pm, then came back 20 minutes later. That was enough time for the crook to smash the driver's-side window and snatch the black tech toy.
— **Natalie O'Neill**

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
Target-ed
A sneaky cashier stole a woman's credit card at the Target on Flatbush Avenue on Dec. 29.
The 49-year-old victim told cops that she made a purchase at the store between Atlantic and Fourth avenues at 1:49 pm.
That evening, she discovered that her card had been used for an additional \$625 purchase at the store.
When she called the big-box store to find out what had happened, the manager told her a worker had used her card.

MT-hey!
A gun-toting thug robbed two women in a Lafayette Avenue subway station on Jan. 1.
The two victims told cops that they were in the Clinton-Washington G station at 4:03 pm when they were approached by a man brandishing a silver revolver.
He demanded their property and the women handed him two iPhones and their purses — which all together was worth more than \$2,000.
The crook then left the station and fled on a bike.
Quick pick
A prowling jerk picked a man's pocket as he stepped onto the train at a Fulton Street subway station on Jan. 3.
The 59-year-old victim told cops he had gone to an ATM before he went into the subway station, and was about to board when the thief removed his wallet — and \$600 — before fleeing.
Punked
Two jerks tried to rob a teenager on Fort Greene Place on Jan. 5.
The 17-year-old victim told cops that he was between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street when the two men approached him and demanded he empty his pockets.
When he refused, they punched him.
Girl spree
Cops say two teenage girls went on a robbing spree in Fort Greene on Jan. 6 before police caught up with them.
• Cops say it started when the girls beat up a teenager and her younger brother on Myrtle Avenue.
The 13-year-old victim told cops that she was surrounded by the two teenagers at 4:17 pm at Prince Street. One of them punched her after she wouldn't give up her phone.
• Cops say the girls then robbed a woman on N. Elliott Place.
The 38-year-old victim said she was between Flushing and Park avenues at 4:51 pm when the girls approached her. One had a box-cutter when she demanded the victim's phone.
• The dastardly duo robbed a man on DeKalb Avenue a short while later, cops said.
The 42-year-old victim told cops he was at Cumberland Street at 5:20 pm when one of the girls stepped in front of him and the other one flashed a box-cutter and said, "Give me money, give me everything."

Revolver
A trio of thugs robbed a man exiting a subway station on Fulton Street on Jan. 7.
The 22-year-old victim told cops he was leaving the A/C Clinton-Washington Station at 2:10 am, when he was surrounded by the thugs, one of whom put a gun to his head and said, "You know what this is."
The creep then hit the man in the face with the gun, stole his backpack, and fled.
Marshalled
A jerk stole a woman's wallet from the Marshall's in the Atlantic Avenue Terminal Mall on Jan. 7.
The 29-year-old victim told cops she placed her wallet on a table at the store at 7 pm, and when she went to get it 40 minutes later, it was gone.
— **Eli Rosenberg**

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights
Air heads
Punks busted into a car parked on 62nd Street on Jan. 7, cleaning out everything they could find — even the air bag and shifter.
The victim told cops that she parked her car between 11th and 12th avenues at 6 pm. When she returned four hours later, she found her driver's-side window smashed and her \$3,000 navigation system, iPod, air bag, and shifter were missing.
Inbrott!
A thief busted into the Swedish Football Club on 65th Street overnight on Jan. 2, making off with a \$7,000 safe.
Employees told cops that the thief broke in through the front window of the club, which is between Seventh and Eighth avenues, at 2 am. When they returned at 9:30 that morning, they found the safe and \$2,000 in cash missing.
Stole sum
A burglar stole a safe containing \$8,000 from a 65th Street Dim Sum joint on Jan. 5.
The owner told cops that he locked up the restaurant between Ninth Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway at 11 pm. When he returned at 5 am, he found that the thief had busted in through the side door and had swiped the safe.
Jewel heist
A slick perp slid into a Marine Avenue house on Jan. 5 and swiped a cool grand in jewelry.
The victim told cops that she left her house between Fourth Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway at 7:30 am. When she returned at 8 pm, she found her rear sliding door ajar and \$1,000 in jewelry missing.
Spa bandit
A thief swiped a purse from a Fourth Avenue spa on Jan. 6.
The victim told cops that she left her purse in the building between 85th and 86th streets at 8:50 pm. When she went to retrieve it, she found her designer purse — and an iPhone and cash — missing.

Oh, tannenbaum!
Firebugs set ablaze a Christmas tree left on 78th Street on Jan. 8, damaging a car parked nearby.
The car owner told cops that he parked his 2009 Honda between Colonial Road and Ridge Boulevard overnight near the tree, which vandals set on fire at around 3 am.
— **Dan MacLeod**

Hold up
A thug tried to rob a man on Bergen Street on Jan. 6.
The victim said he was near Bond Street at 5:45 pm when the thief approached and said, "Give me all you got, I have a gun." But the man sensed that the crook was lying, and ran away before he could get fleeced.
Vacation vandal
A thief broke into a Washington Street home while its occupant was on vacation over the New Year's holiday and stole an iPad and printer.
The victim told cops that she left her apartment between York and Front streets at 9 am on Dec. 27. When she returned at 10 pm on Jan. 4, she discovered that her electronics were missing.
— **Daniel Bush**

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
Party pooper
A guest stole a Rolex watch from his host at a party on Lawrence Street sometime overnight on Jan. 5.
The apartment's occupant said guests started arriving at his home between Willoughby Street and the MetroTech esplanade at 11 pm. At 8 the next morning, he realized the watch and some expensive clothing were missing.
Barbaric theft
Someone stole a wallet from a car on Bridge Street while its owner ducked into a nearby barbershop on Jan. 7.
The vehicle's owner said he left the car parked between Fulton and Willoughby streets at 7:20 pm. When he emerged from the hairstylist 20 minutes later, the wallet was missing from the car's glove compartment.
Cell snatch
A thief snatched a woman's cellphone on Jay Street on Jan. 3.
The victim said she was near Willoughby Street at 3:45 pm when the crook stole her device and ran off.
iPad swiped
A thief stole the popular tablet device from an F train rider on Jan. 2.
The strap-hanger said her Carroll Gardens-bound train was at the Bergen Street station at Wyckoff Street at 7:45 pm when the crook grabbed the iPad and fled the train.
Fast fooled
A thief stole a woman's wallet as she ate at the Fulton Street Wendy's on Jan. 4.
The victim said she placed the wallet inside her purse after paying for her meal at the fast food joint at Pearl Street at 2:45 pm. Approximately 15 minutes later she realized the wallet was missing.

Greenpoint–Northside
Sicko with stick
A thug assaulted a woman on Withers Street on Jan. 2.
The victim said she was about to pass through the gate to her apartment between Humboldt Street and Kingsland Avenue at 6:40 am when the punk blindsided her, smashing her face with a stick. The crook tried to make off with the woman's handbag, but fled after she started screaming.
Bluffing
A thug attempted to mug a man on N. 12th Street on Jan. 5.
The victim said he was near Bedford Avenue at 5:30 pm when the goon approached him.
"Yo, give me your iPad, or I'll stab you," the crook barked before attempting to wrestle the tablet from the victim. The victim, however, clung to the device during the struggle, and the punk, who was unarmed, gave up and fled empty-handed.
Padlock pinch
A thief plundered a bar on Berry Street on Jan. 5.
The bartender said he locked up the watering hole between N. Ninth and N. Eighth streets at 2:30 am.
When the owner returned the next morning, he found that someone had entered through the rear door, took an iPad, cleared out the register, and left the padlock for the back door resting on the bar, undamaged.

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The Brooklyn Heights Cinema on Henry Street could be torn down to make room for a five-story development, but theater owner Kenn Lowy wants to save it.

The last picture show

Beloved Heights Cinema could meet wrecking ball

Kate Briquete
The Brooklyn Paper

The landlord of the Brooklyn Heights Cinema wants to tear down the beloved Henry Street movie house to make way for a new five-story structure, The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

Building owner Tom Caruana will present plans next Wednesday for a new structure at on Henry Street at Orange Street at Community Board 2’s Landmarks Committee — an early step in gaining permission to demolish an edifice in the landmarked area, according to District Manager Rob Perris.

Caruana would not comment on the specifics of his plan.

“We’re going to move forward whenever we can,” said Caruana. “I can’t reveal anything right now.”

But the scrappy theater’s proprietor, Kenn Lowy, said that he won’t let the Brooklyn Heights icon disappear — even if it means moving the cinema to DUMBO.

“I have to find a way to keep it going,” said Lowy. “I’ve just never given up on it. Business is finally picking up.”

Lowy bought the cinema last year from Norman Adie, who was recently convicted in a Ponzi

scheme.

The 150-seat twin cinema has weathered several changes in ownership since it opened in 1971, managing to stay afloat in an age of multiplexes with the help of loyal fans.

Lowy was one of those devoted moviegoers and since taking it over last summer, he has used the space for art exhibits and live performances to go along with Hollywood blockbusters.

He said that he always knew there was a chance that Caruana would raze the building, but took a gamble on it anyway.

“The landlord is eventually going to do something,” said Lowy,

whose lease runs up on June 30. “But right now we don’t know when that’s going to be. I’m not going crazy over it yet.”

The Heights Cinema is one of the few independently owned theaters in Brooklyn, but it is not the only movie house in the neighborhood.

The United Artists Court Street Stadium multiplex, a high-rise theater that features 12 screens, has been catering to moviegoers since the late-1990s. That building, which also includes a Barnes & Noble to replace what had become a derelict block between State and Schermerhorn streets.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4
iPerp

A thief snagged a woman’s iPhone on Driggs Avenue on Jan. 5.

The victim said she was holding her cellphone near N. Eighth Street at 8:15 pm when the crook reached out, snatched the phone from her hands, and fled.

— **Colin Mixson**

90TH PRECINCT
Southside–Bushwick
Thugged

A thug stole a man’s wallet, phone and gloves on Varick Avenue on Jan. 4.

The 22-year-old victim told cops he was between Ingraham Street and Harrison Place at 7:30 pm when he was approached by a man with one hand in his pocket who said, “I have a gun, if you don’t want to get shot, give me your wallet.”

The victim handed over

his Blackberry, wallet and leather gloves before the perp fled.

Cashed out

A crook broke into a woman’s Boerum Street apartment and stole a wad of cash on Jan. 6.

The 49-year-old woman told cops that she left her place between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street at 8 pm, returning three hours later to find her door lock broken and \$6,000 missing.

MacBooked

Two crooks robbed a man while he was inside his unlocked apartment on McKibbin Street on Jan. 3.

The 26-year-old victim told cops that he was working on his laptop in his place between McKibbin and Seigel courts when two men entered his at 10:25 pm.

The duo threatened they had a gun before leaving with his fancy MacBook.

Hit twice

A building on Maujer Street was hit twice by crooks in the last week.

• On Jan. 4 a jerk stole a bike from the building between Manhattan and Graham avenues.

The 33-year-old victim told cops that left his bike in a locked storage closet in his apartment complex at 3:45 pm. When he returned 45 minutes later, it was gone.

• A thug robbed a storage closet in the same building on Jan. 7.

The 31-year-old victim told cops that a crook broke into the closet at 7 pm, stealing a Univega bicycle and some sneakers before fleeing.

myMac

A thief stole an expensive laptop from an office on Ingraham Street on Jan. 4.

The 38-year-old victim told cops that his MacBook pro went missing from his workplace near Porter Avenue between 2:30 and 3:30 pm.

Van grab

A thug stole a delivery van parked on Metropolitan Avenue on Jan. 4.

The driver of the van told cops that she left the car idling between Driggs Avenue and Roebling Street at 3 pm, returning 10 minutes later to find the white freight van missing.

Car jacked

A crook stole a man’s car on Hewes Street over New Year’s weekend.

The 33-year-old victim told cops that he parked his car between Broadway and Harrison avenues at 10 pm on New Year’s Eve, returning at 3 pm on Jan. 2 to find his 1997 Nissan gone.

Church crooks

A godless thug robbed a church on S. Ninth Street overnight on Jan. 6.

Representatives from the church told cops that they left the church at 11:30 pm, returning 12 hours later to find crooks had broken the locks to the church’s office and safe room, and left with \$1,000.

— **Eli Rosenberg**

PARK...

Continued from page 1

the blaze started, but lovers of the greenspace have their own ideas.

“Somebody’s harboring a deep, dark secret in their heart, thinking that vandalism is a permissible activity,” said Charles Jarden, chairman of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy. “The park is the neighborhood jewel, and someone is just making a mess!”

The fire took place after the popular Christmas tree recycling event, Mulchfest, but wasn’t reported to police. Instead, park workers noticed the damage on Monday morning.

It’s not the only brazen act of park mischief this winter. Jarden said that since New Year’s Eve, someone has been bending metal stakes and kicking in wooden fences — used to

protect patches of grass — near the DeKalb Avenue entrance and Prison Ship Martyrs Monument.

Jarden is now alerting his volunteers to be on the lookout for new vandalism and to dial 311 as soon as they see it. His group has spent more than \$1,000 on the barriers and has already replaced them twice.

Josh Hamlet, 23, who lives around the corner from the park, speculated that the fire was likely a “drunken, late-night debacle” but that he’d chase down any day-

time fence kickers if he saw them.

“The city is trying to take care of an important greenspace and keep it beautiful,” Hamlet said. “Couldn’t you at least meet them half way by not breaking s--t apart?”

Alton Alburo, 22, of Bedford-Stuyvesant, suggested that park users keep their cameras ready so they can broadcast sightings of any vandals on YouTube.

“Someone is drunk, or recklessly taking out aggression on the park,” he said. “It needs to stop now.”

JAY-Z...

Continued from page 1

The self-proclaimed “god of rap,” who grew up in the nearby Marcy Houses in Bedford-Stuyvesant, is known to hip hop listeners as a skilled wordsmith who often rhymes about drugs, sex, and money. Though he has also rapped about more virtuous subjects like love and fatherhood, Jay-Z has been criticized by some religious music fans for likening himself to the messiah and denouncing the church.

Still, Galt believes the rap mogul’s lyrics can teach an important lesson.

Jay-Z’s verses show how life in Clinton Hill can be

“survival of the fittest,” according to the minister, who linked “No Church in the Wild” to recent upticks in crime — including a rash of gunpoint robberies and the murder of a Prospect Heights woman who was burned alive in an elevator.

Galt is a fan of Jay-Z’s songs, but during his sermon, he trashed one of the rapper’s most publicized business ventures.

Jay-Z owns a small portion of the New Jersey Nets, the basketball team scheduled to move into the Barclays Center at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues this fall as a part of developer Bruce Ratner’s Atlantic

Yards mega project. Despite plans for a “meditation room” in the arena that could host a house of worship, Galt compared the Atlantic Yards development and similar projects to the Tower of Babel, calling them “massive monument[s] ... without god.”

For Adam Patrick Jones, 27, Galt’s Hova-inspired sermon was a call to action.

“A lot of people who live here pride our diversity, but there’s not a whole lot of unity,” Jones said. “Now I want to invest in the neighborhood.”

Elsa Sheerer, 21, didn’t take much stock into the pop-culture references.

“It’s not that we endorse everything Jay-Z says in his songs,” she said. “Ultimately we’re unifying

around Christ.”

Galt will deliver the second part of his “No Church in the Wild” sermon on Sunday — though he said he won’t be talking about Jay-Z; he’ll be teaching about relationships with family and the community.

“Jay-Z is a neighborhood voice,” Galt said. “A lot of us not only enjoy the beats, but understand that he expresses something that is true. It’s so easy to live in our neighborhood and build your life to feel like you’re the one who has to protect yourself.”

Christ Church [279 Lafayette Ave at St. James Place in Clinton Hill, (718) 369-7972] on Sundays at 5 pm. For info, visit www.christchurchclintonhill.com.

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Christmas trees’ circle of life

Chop down a Christmas tree, deck it for all it’s worth, then turn it into mulch so that other evergreens may grow. That’s the cyclical narrative that plays out each winter at the Mulchfest — a post-holiday celebration that turns the year’s yuletide decorations into plant food. Hundreds of Brooklynites grabbed their arbors and headed to parks across the borough last weekend to feed their Christmas trees to wood chippers. The city will use the wood chips in parks, gardens, and street planters throughout Gotham. But those who donate their trees get the chance to take home a late Christmas present: their very own bag of mulch! It’s no wonder the celebration has become so popular.



1 LAST RITES: Step one is simple — grab a tree. Environmentalists from around the borough flocked to Fort Greene Park on Saturday for the wood-chipping party. Here’s a tip for first-timers: remember to remove the ornaments.



2 SAY GOODBYE: Richard Foster parts with his soon-to-be departed holiday timber the only way he knows how — by giving it a big hug. Soon, he’ll hand it off to mulch experts who’ll give it the old Steve Buscemi treatment.



3 CHOP SHOP: Matt Grailich of the Parks Department plays St. Peter, greeting trees with a smile before sending them to a better place — through the wood chipper and into a giant pile of mulch.



4 A NEW LIFE: Grailich shows off some of that sweet-smelling mulch that will provide the nutrients that will make saplings grow strong.

ROCCO...



Rocco, a Brooklyn Heights legend, died on Jan. 5 of bone cancer.

Continued from page 1

another challenge: convincing her husband to let him stay. She reasoned with him — “He’s Italian; you’re Italian!” — and Rocco moved in for good.

In his new home, Rocco thrived. He bonded immediately with the family dog, Jezebel, with whom he would play and snuggle. He quickly grew from 75 to 140 pounds and slowly started to regain his trust in humans.

In 2009, Demetropoulos had the opportunity to take over the Pineapple Walk pet shop Tailored Pet following the original owner’s death. A long-time Tailored Pet employee, Demetropoulos considered reopening the shop as the Primo and Rose Pet Store — an homage to the boutique’s two resident cats.

But the real-life “Lady and the Tramp” story play-

ing out in her own home became the inspiration for the store’s name.

Rocco and Jezebel For Pets opened in 2009 and Rocco assumed the role of neighborhood celebrity, spending his days lounging in the shop near Henry Street.

He held court in the store until August, when his health began to falter.

The family cremated Rocco after a tearful ceremony on Thursday, saying, “We will miss him terribly.”

Jezebel has struggled to move on following her pal’s passing.

“You can see it in her face — she’s depressed. She’s been moping around, lying in the spots Rocco used to sit,” said Demetropoulos.

There are no plans for a public memorial, but Rocco fans can share thoughts on his Facebook page, where one commenter wrote, “Farewell, sweet doggy.”

An Open Letter to New York City Parents

New York City is losing its teachers.

More than 66,000 have either resigned or retired since Mayor Bloomberg took control of the schools.

Teachers leave one of the toughest jobs in New York City for a variety of personal and professional reasons, but the most common single reason is a lack of support from supervisors and the Department of Education.

Teaching is a craft that is acquired over time, and teachers desperately want to improve their skills. That is why the United Federation of Teachers led the campaign to create a better teacher evaluation system, one that put a priority on helping all teachers do their job better. The UFT’s role was critical in creating the new system, and in going to Washington, D.C. to help get federal funds for it through the Race to the Top program. Starting last spring, many of our members with expertise in evaluation worked for months on the state subcommittees designing the new system.

We have been trying to work with the Bloomberg administration to iron out the final details of the new system, but the administration has refused to engage in meaningful talks about teacher and principal improvement. Instead it has focused on ensuring that administrators have unlimited power over their employees. If we agree, it will mean that supervisors’ decisions can never be properly reviewed, much less overturned. This would be true even if their negative rating of a teacher or a principal can be proven to be the result of their refusal to inappropriately change a student’s grade or to give students credit for courses they have not properly completed.

Make no mistake about it. The administration has put tremendous pressure on principals to make their schools *appear* to be successful. But any claims of success ring hollow in the light of national tests that show very limited student progress for the system as a whole, and state measures that show that while the high school graduation rate is increasing, the number of graduates ready for college is only about one in five.

The sad truth is that Mayor Bloomberg’s “reform” agenda — raising class size across the system; closing schools and “warehousing” the neediest students; pushing art and music out of the schools to make room for more test prep; turning a deaf ear to parents’ concerns; and appointing a completely unqualified publishing executive to be Chancellor — hasn’t made our schools better.

A real teacher evaluation system that helps all teachers improve while providing checks and balances is a critical step toward stopping the hemorrhaging of our teaching force and making our schools more effective. At the same time it would help ensure that teachers who cannot succeed in the classroom leave the profession.

We have an open offer to the administration to continue our negotiations on this issue, or even to take it to binding arbitration. It’s time the administration sat down with teachers and principals to come up with an agenda that will actually help our children learn.

Sincerely,

Michael Mulgrew

Michael Mulgrew
President
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It's game time!

Our guide to the very best Brooklyn spots to watch

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

In a city of choices, football fans all over Brooklyn must make an important decision every winter — they must pick the best bar in which to watch the NFL playoffs. It's not a decision to be taken lightly — one wrong choice and you're stuck with expensive beer and obnoxious fans. A good call, on the other hand, and you're in wing paradise with fellow fans rooting for the right team. But hey, no worries: you've got us to help out. Behold, our list of Brooklyn's best bars, with the best specials, to ensure you're with the right crowd as you watch America's greatest game.

Farrell's Bar and Grill
It's not every day that you can get beer by the quart — unless you're at Farrell's, where the 32-ounce serving of suds goes for \$6. It's a man's man's joint — the 79-year-old place only started allowing women in the 1970s — but it's the place to watch the Giants game, with some of Brooklyn's most true-blue fans.
[215 Prospect Park W. between 16th Street and Windsor Place in Windsor Terrace, (718) 788-8779] Open Monday–Saturday 10 am–4 am, Sunday, noon–4 am

Cody's Alehouse Grill
Before Cobble Hill was full of sleek cocktail bars and happening coffee shops, there was Cody's — a solid bar with a restaurant-sized menu. The wood-paneled establishment, which is more than 20 years old, is a bit of a Steelers hotspot, but expect some clashes as the postseason heats up and the large place draws impassioned fans of other clans now that the towel-wag-



Go team!: (Pictured clockwise from top) Football freaks from around town, such as Giants fanatic Danny Apas; our own proud (well, she is at least) Packers enthusiast reporter Kate Briquet; and Steelers sweetheart Hilary Pattrie, are taking over Brooklyn's best sports bars to root for their teams of choice in the NFL playoffs. (Pictured top) Peggy O'Neill's, where \$25 gets you a pitcher of beer and a pitcher of wings, is the go-to spot in Coney Island.

ging team from Pittsburgh is out.
[154 Court St. between Pacific and Amity streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 852-6115] Open daily from 11:30 am–2 am.

d.b.a.
Given its New Orleans roots, it's no surprise that the good times are rolling at d.b.a in Williamsburg, the Brooklyn version of a Big Easy bar by the same name. The place is turned into a carnival of sorts every Saints game: pop-up restaurant, Tchoup Shop, takes over the joint, serving up eclectic Louisiana fare such as duck gumbo and crab hush puppies. Be sure to wash the game down, victory or defeat, with \$4 Abitas and \$5 "Sly and a rye" — Sly Fox IPA with a shot of whiskey.
[113 N. 7th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 218-6006] Open daily from 1 pm to 4 am, for more info visit www.drinkgoodstuff.com.

Angry Wade's
Lambeau Field is far away, so "Angry" Wade Hagenbart's Wisconsin joint is the bar of choice for the borough's Packers fans. The bar features cookouts every Sunday with beer brats, burgers and other tailgating fare, and like the home team, these guys aren't stopped by a little cold weather: the outdoor barbecue will go on, rain, snow or sleet. Hagenbart says he'll even ship in cheese curds from America's dairyland to fry up if the Pack makes it to the Superbowl.
[222 Smith St. between Butler and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 488-7253] Open Monday through Friday 3 pm–4 am, Saturday and Sunday, noon–4 am.

See **GAME** on page 10

CULTURE

Aisle \$tyle

Plan to tie the knot in style at the borough's first gay wedding expo, where the brightest color in the pride rainbow is sure to be — green. More than 75 businesses will cash in on the lucrative new wedding market, offering gay-friendly honeymoon packages, queer wedding DJs and "alternative family" lawyers at Borough Hall on Jan. 15.
"It's a new niche for businesses," said organizer Daniel Brooks of Brooklyn Community Pride Center, adding that the market emerged after legislation allowing gay couples to wed in New York passed last June.
Brooklyn-based merchants — which include Sposabella wedding boutique, Bride and Joy Photography and Fresh Fanatic bakery — will likely draw more than 3,000 visitors to the sprawling historic building, where Borough President Markowitz will play host.
The event is co-sponsored by this very newspaper, CNG local.
Brooklyn LGBT Wedding Expo at Borough Hall [209 Joralemon St. between Adams and Court streets in Downtown, (718) 802-3700], Jan. 15 at 10 am. Free. — **Natalie O'Neill**

MUSIC

Steely Jon!

Jon Herington is back, Jack — and he's doing it again!
The guitar player for famed rock band Steely Dan is putting on an acoustic solo show at the Jalopy Theatre in Red Hook on Jan. 15 — and he's pulling out all the stops.
"I've been doing this gig with Steely Dan for eleven years, and as time goes on, I'm doing more of my own things," Herington said. "so I never have to play a song I don't want to play."
Herington, who's jammed with heavy-hitters like with Boz Scaggs and Bett Midler, formed his own band 25 years ago, and has playing with the same drummer and bass player ever since.
Herington's solo stuff is a poppy combo of rock 'n roll, blues and jazz that lends itself to acoustic performance, he said.
"Stripped down acoustic show is great because it's quieter, and there's more give and take with the audience — it's more fun and casual."
Jon Herington at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. at Hamilton Avenue in Columbia Waterfront District, (718) 395-3214], Jan. 15, 7:30 pm. Tickets, \$15. For info, visit www.jalopy.biz. — **Juliet Linderman**



FESTIVAL

Balkans bash

Want to show off your Gypsy dancing skills? Look no further than the Zlatne Uste Golden Festival, New York's biggest — and only — Balkan music extravaganza, which is returning to Brooklyn for the 27th year to showcase more than 60 Gypsy- and Roma-flavored bands at Grand Prospect Hall on Jan. 13 and 14.
The Balkans region, which includes Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Albania among other countries, is known for its vibrant folk music tradition that prides itself on crowd participation.
"Everybody makes music and everybody dances — and dancing is participatory; it's like if you go to a Greek wedding, everybody gets up and dances," said Emerson Hawley, the festival's co-producer and tuba player for the Zlatne Uste brass band.
To help fully realize the true Balkan-folk experience for those who can barely find Albania on a map, letalone groove with the natives, Zlatne Uste — that's Golden Lips in Serbian — has organized an hour-long dance workshop before the show on Friday evening, to help concert-goers get up to speed on their Gypsy moves.
Grand Prospect Hall [263 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 788-0777] Jan. 13, at 7:30 pm, \$25; Jan. 14, at 6 pm, \$50. For info, visit www.golden-fest.org. — **Colin Mixson**



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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SUNDAY

January 15



Sleepwalk with Mike
Comedian Mike Birbiglia will take the stage to share stories from his off-broadway play "Sleepwalk With Me." The play borrows its name from a condition that Birbiglia suffers from, called rapid eye movement behavior disorder — aka, sleepwalking, which once caused the hapless performer to unconsciously leap through the second story window. Birbiglia survived, of course, to tell the tale.

8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. \$20, for info, visit unionhallny.com.

MONDAY

January 16

Pub pop quiz
Pay off your \$20 bucket of Miller High Life by answering questions in categories such as "Last Exit Theater," where hosts perform scenes from mystery movies; "Canadian or Not Canadian," where the audience must decide whether or not particular celebs hail from our neighbor to the north; and "Bodega Price is Right," where participants guess the price of various household necessities.

9 pm. Last Exit Bar [136 Atlantic Ave. between Henry and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 222-9198]. \$5, for info, visit www.lastexitbar.com.



WEDNESDAY

January 18



Billy's book tour
The borough's wackiest reverend has a new revelation! Rev. Billy — a.k.a Windsor Terrace performance artist Bill Talen — will provide fans and followers with an insider's account of his ongoing crusade against corporations and consumer culture when he reads from his latest book, "The Reverend Billy Project: From Rehearsal Hall to Super Mall."

7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Dean and Pacific streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677]. Free, for info visit www.revbbilly.com.

THURSDAY

January 19

Breakup stuff
You would think Daniel Handler would be an expert on break-ups, but surprisingly, the author of "Why We Broke Up," hasn't had one since before 1992. But perhaps it's this very dearth of heartache that inspired the author to write a book about the break-up of a fictional teen couple, for which he collaborated with celebrated illustrator, Maira Kalman, whose drawings give soul to the most quotidian of objects.

7 pm. WORD [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. Free, for info visit www.wordbrooklyn.com.



SUNDAY

January 21



DIY Fest
Craftsmen and women of African descent will display, sell, and provide tutorials on how to produce an eclectic mix of homemade goods. "We're interested in seeing what sort of contributions artisans of color are making to the D-I-Y movement," said curator Issa Komada-John. "We even have a cocktail maker!"

2 pm. Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts [80 Hanson Pl. between S. Portland Avenue and S. Elliot Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-0492]. \$10 (\$6.50 in advance), for info, visit www.mocada.org.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JAN. 13

NERD NITE MAGAZINE LAUNCH: From the geeks that brought you Nerd Nite trivial! \$11.11. 7:30 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

MUSIC, THE MAST: Free. 9 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

SAT, JAN. 14

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, KEY WILDE AND MR. CLARKE: \$20. 11 am. Peter Jay Sharpe Theatre [2537 Broadway at 95th Street, (212) 864-5400], www.symphonyspace.org.

MUSIC, BEATLES MARATHON: Every Beatles song (185) will be performed by some of New York's top ukelele players. 3 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, A NIGHT OF CHARLES IVES

MUSIC: A marathon performance of Charles Ives complete songbook in one epic night. \$20. 4:30 pm–9 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: Peruse antiques, collectibles, vintage, crafts, and furniture. 8 am–6 pm. PS 321 [180 Seventh Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (917) 991-7807], www.parkslopefleamarket.com.

SUN, JAN. 15

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, JON HERINGTON: Guitarist from Steely Dan will perform a solo set. \$15. 7:30 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

MUSIC, JAZZ CONCERT: With Matt Steckler's Persiflage. Donation. 8:30 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: 8 am–6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 14.

OTHER

LGBT WEDDING EXPO: The first ever fair of its kind will feature hundreds of vendors offering hotels, banquet halls, caterers and florists. Free. 10 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall [209 Joralemon St. between Court and Adams streets in Downtown], www.lgbtbrooklyn.com.

MON, JAN. 16

BEGINNER'S ESL: Students learn basic structure and vocabulary and communicating in English. Registration required. Free. 6:15 pm–9:15 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www.ymcanc.org.

OPEN REHEARSALS: Brooklyn's Sweet Adelines Barbershop Chorus welcomes singers of all voice ranges. Free. 7:30 pm. Call for location, (718) 833-3399.

TUES, JAN. 17

BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 16.

READING, "BOOZE, BOOKS AND BROWNIES WITH THE WOMEN OF WENNER MEDIA": Gwen Cooper and Kate Rockland discuss life in publishing. Free. 7 pm. Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-11222], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

WED, JAN. 18

WORKSHOP, SENIOR SEMINAR: Dr. David Frankel, dermatologist at NY Methodist Hospital, on various maladies that affect seniors. Registration required. Free. 2:30 pm–3:30 pm. Brooklyn College Student Center [E. 27th St and Campus Road in Midwood, (718) 780-5368].

WORKSHOP, TANGO LESSONS: For adults and youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No experience and no partners necessary. Pre-registration for youngsters required. Free. 6 pm–9 pm. IS 96 [99 Ave. P at



Oh, darlin'!: Roger Greenawalt will ukelele his way through the entire Beatles discography on Jan. 14 at the annual Beatles Complete on Ukelele extravaganza at Brooklyn Bowl.

Photo Courtesy of Roger Greenawalt

THURS, JAN. 19

BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 pm–to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 16.

MUSIC, RED MOLLY: An all-female Americana trio. \$12. 7 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

FRI, JAN. 20

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: "Transforming Traditions" performed by the Grace & Spiritus Choral. \$15 (\$12 seniors and students). 7 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 707-1411], www.graceandspiritus.org.

DANCE, BROCKPORT ALUMNI DANCE RECITAL: Eight distinct pieces featuring a range of artists and dancers. \$20. 7:30 pm. The Center for Performance Research [361 Manhattan Ave. between Jackson and Withers streets in Williamsburg, (718) 349-1210], www.cprnyc.org.

SAT, JAN. 21

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: 8 am–6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 14.

OTHER

CITIZENSHIP PREP: 10:30 am–1:30 pm and 1:30 pm–4:30 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 14.

WORKSHOP, MEN'S HEALTH: Screenings for hypertension, prostate cancer, and diabetes, plus an open discussion with an MD. Goodwill offering. 1 pm–5 pm. Cultural Center [120 Madison St. at Bedford Avenue in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 693-2779].



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PUBLISHER
Celia Weintrob (718) 260-4503

EDITORIAL STAFF

STAFF REPORTERS
Kate Briquelet (718) 260-2511
Colin Mixson (718) 260-4514
Natalie O'Neill (718) 260-4505
Aaron Short (718) 260-2547

ADVERTISING STAFF

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES
Michael Filippi (718) 260-4501

FRONT OFFICE
Lisa Malwitz (718) 260-2594

PRODUCTION STAFF

ART DIRECTOR
Leah Mitch (718) 260-4510

WEB DESIGNER
Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weintrob

HOW TO CONTACT THE PAPER

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Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Eat it: Dawn Casale and David Crofton, owners of One Girl Cookies on Dean Street in Cobble Hill, now have a cook book revealing some of the secrets behind their sweet treats.

Sweet secrets

Cobble Hill bakery shares its home-grown recipes in the new treat-filled cookbook

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

A Cobble Hill cookie joint is taking its upscale treats to the next level — with new DUMBO digs and a cookbook that’s as much about family history as it is about crafting the perfect whoopie pie.

Dawn Casale and David Crofton, a husband-and-wife

team that grew out of a business partnership when the two started their Dean Street bakery, One Girl Cookies, six years ago, is opening a new store on Main Street between Water and Plymouth streets, and releasing their very first cookbook, this month.

The cookbook includes a litany of homemade treats — think lemon olive oil cake and honey apricot granola — and is designed to share the secrets behind the duo’s most delectable and inventive recipes.

“People often ask us for recipes, and we offer cooking classes,” said Crofton. “They are always curious, [asking] ‘what’s in this’ and ‘how do you make that.’”

Apart from a pinch of this and a dash of that, the pair also authored the cookbook as a way to tell the story of their families, and the ways in which cooking and baking has influenced their lives, through their home-grown recipes, many of which are accompanied by an anecdote.

“This book the story of our families and this shop — that is really our extended family in a lot of ways,” said Casale. “It’s our way of sharing that, and we do it in a story-like way.”

But let’s face it: it’s really all about the sweets — and the price of the tasty tome is well worth the secrets it unlocks.

Try the Lucia espresso square — a rich, chocolate morsel set on a buttery crust — or the pumpkin whoopie pie, which our New England-born reporter can attest is the best you can get outside of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

BOOKS

“One Girl Cookies” book release at **The powerHouse Arena** [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets (718) 666-3049], Jan. 18, 7 pm, free. RSVP to rsvp@powerHouseArena.com.

Want to make some whoopie? Check out this recipe for One Girl Cookies whoopie pies:

CHOCOLATE WHOOPIE PIES WITH PEPPERMINT FILLING
Makes 24 whoopie pies
Ingredients:
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup Dutch-processed cocoa powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon table salt
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup plain whole-milk yogurt
1/3 cup canola oil
3 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Peppermint Filling (recipe follows)

Instructions:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.
2. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat together the granulated sugar, brown sugar, yogurt, oil, eggs, and vanilla for 3 minutes on medium speed. Thoroughly scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. With the mixer running on low speed, gradually add the flour mixture for a total mixing time of 30 seconds. Carefully scrape down the bowl. Refrigerate the batter for 30 minutes.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
4. Using a pastry bag fitted with a large plain tip (the hole should be about as large as the tip of your ring finger), pipe 2-inch-diameter circles onto the prepared baking sheet, leaving 1½ inches between them. Be careful to keep your pastry bag completely vertical to achieve nice circles. (If you have to wait between

batches of whoopie pies, keep the batter refrigerated.)

5. Immediately put the baking sheet in the oven. Bake for 9 minutes, without rotating the baking sheet, until the whoopie pies spring back when touched. Let the whoopie pies cool completely.

6. To fill the whoopies, turn half of them over so that they are bottomsides up. Using a pastry bag, pipe a small dollop of peppermint filling onto each whoopie bottom. Top with the remaining whoopies.

PEPPERMINT FILLING
Makes 2 cups
Ingredients:
4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
1/8 teaspoon table salt
3 cups confectioners’ sugar, plus more if needed

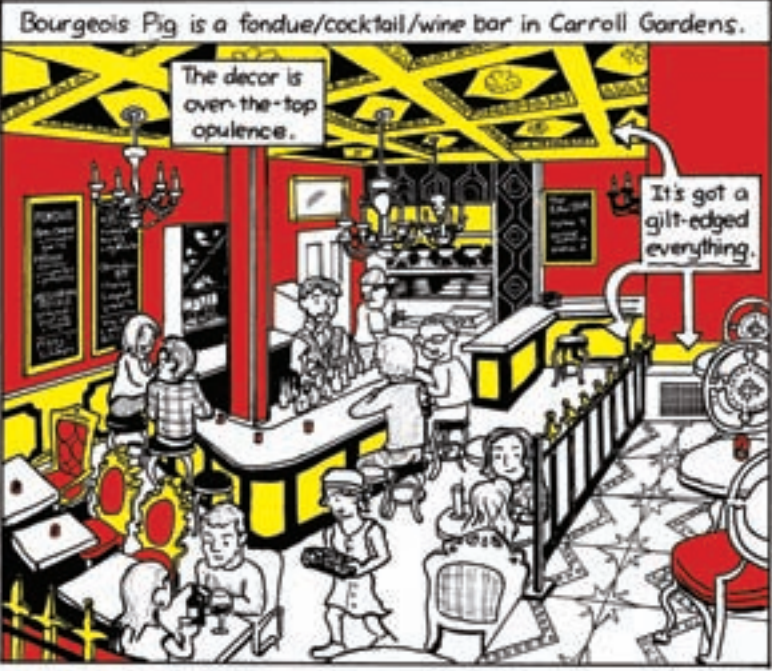
Directions:

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat together the cream cheese and butter on medium speed until the mixture is light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Add the peppermint and salt, and mix for 30 seconds on low speed. With the mixer running on low speed, gradually add the confectioners’ sugar, and then beat for 1 minute. Scrape down the bowl. If the filling is too soft to hold its shape, add more confectioners’ sugar, a tablespoon at a time, until you reach the desired consistency. Store in the refrigerator, in an airtight container with plastic wrap pressed onto the surface of the filling, for up to five days.

BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy



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Food gossip!



It's out with the old (Italian) in DUMBO, and in with the new (Italian) in Crown Heights and Cobble Hill — in this week's family-sized serving of saucy gossip!

'town down
It's the end of Italian food as we know it! Like the 100-year-old Monte's Venetian Room in Gowanus before it, DUMBO's own centenarian staple, Pete's Downtown, is laying down its parmigiana and shutting its doors. Although often outshined by nearby neighbors The River Café and Grimaldi's, it was hard to beat Pete's for no-muss-no-fuss eggplant rol-

latini and impeccable waterfront views.

Re-Pete
Crown Heights just may have a contender on the posh pizza scene with the newly opened Pete Zaaz, an upper-crust entry with owners that hail from the quirky No. 7 in Fort Greene and the distinguished Pulino's in the East Village. Sure, you can get your slice topped Brooklyn-style with tomato and motz at this pioneering pie spot, but why not try a Cold Fried Chicken, with curried yellow squash, fontina, stewed collards, and pickled Thai chilies; or the Baked Potato, with bacon, cheddar, green onion and crème fraîche? Mama mia, that's not your nonna's pizza!

Bun in the oven
Greenpointers with a jones for bacon caramel corn, ginger beer cupcakes, and gluten-free pistachio agave cookies may soon be in luck! Ovenly — a two-woman baking business that supplies handcrafted treats to upscale retailers like The Brooklyn Kitchen, Coolhaus, Eastern District, and Greene Grape Provisions — is looking to open a dedicated storefront at 31 Greenpoint Avenue. How sweet it is!

Tears for beers
It seems the casks have run dry (at least until mid-month) at Park Slope's popular artisanal ale house, Beer Table. According to Grub Street, a paperwork kerfuffle with the SLA and the local community board has



Baked good: Greenpoint sweet shop Ovenly (their excellent chocolate cinnamon chip scone pictured here), is set to open up a storefront at 31 Greenpoint Ave. sometime in March.

resulted in their license being pulled temporarily. Until then, owners Justin and Tricia Philips hope to keep patrons sated with a teetotaling lunch and brunch service, including an arugula salad with cippolini onions and sunflower seeds, heirloom beans with duck sausage and sage, and, if you must do the brew, beef and beer stew with malt vinegar and toast.

GAME...

Continued from page 7

Lone Star Bar and Grill

If you think the best way to enjoy a football game is by eating and drinking in quantity, then Lone Star is the place for you. The bar is hosting a barbeque and setting up screens outside — but if it gets too chilly, you can always head in to watch the game on one of their 23 indoor TVs. All-you-can-eat barbeque and all-you-can-drink for \$50, what more do you need to know?

[8703 Fifth Ave. between 87th

and 88th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 883-5180] Open daily from 11 am–4 am, for more info visit lonestarbarrandgrill.net.

Peggy O'Neill's

Who says Coney Island is only fun in the summer? Peggy O'Neill's, the tried-and-true staple on this side of Keyspan Park, offers football watchers this hefty deal for playoff pigskin: a pitcher of beer and a pitcher of wings (yes, a pitcher of wings) for \$25.

[1904 Surf Ave. between W. 17th and W. 19th streets in Coney Island, (718) 449-3200] Open daily from 11 am–2 am.

Charles' Ale House

Whoneeds drink specials when beers are less than \$4? At Charles' Ale House, domestics are \$3.50 and imports are \$4, and there's bound to be a sizeable contingent of Giants fans flocking to this neighborhood establishment.

[2943 Avenue S between Harding Street and Nostrand Avenue in Midwood, (718) 627-6100]

Brooklyn Ice House

Sports bars are typically thronged for the NFL playoffs, so if you're looking for a calmer place to grab a seat and watch the game, the Brooklyn Ice House is your joint. The small dive in Red Hook, with \$3 pulled-pork sand-

wiches and a good selection of drafts and bottled beers, is a great bar year-round, but with 50-cent wings and \$2 Highlife/PBRs for the playoffs, you can't go wrong during game-time.

[318 Van Brunt St. between Pioneer Street and Visitation Place in Red Hook, (718) 222-1865. Open daily, noon–4 am]

Wheeler's

The Sheepsherd Bay standby offers great bar food to boot. Most beers are under \$5.

[1707 Sheepsherd Bay Rd. between Voorhies Avenue and Shore Parkway, (718) 646-9320. Open daily from 11 am–2 am]



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‘Paws’ for concern!

Dusty run soils pups

By Kate Briquelet
The Brooklyn Paper

Man’s best friend is biting the dust — and to the horror of dog-lovers, rolling around in it and taking it home!

Locals are demanding that Brooklyn Bridge Park replace the gravel at its Pier 6 dog run, saying that the pet playground’s surface constantly gives off a dust that turns pooches a pinkish hue and gets everywhere.

Tyra Bombetto, founder of Pink Dogs Unite, said that residents are fed up with cleaning rosy mud from paws and bellies — and from their furniture — after their canines play in the popular Atlantic Avenue dust bowl.

“Of course you’re going to be dirty at a dog run, but this is an entirely different level!” she said. “You leave with a pink dog every day.”

Park-lovers were elated when the tail-wagging oasis at the park’s southern leg near Furman Street opened two summers ago with a “brown-



The surface of the ground at the Pier 6 dog run in Brooklyn Bridge Park looks harmless, but pooch owners say it’s turning their pups pink.

stone screening” instead of concrete surface.

But now the salmon-colored dust has become an unpleasant way of life for many regulars.

“This is what the dog owners talk about: the weather, their dogs, and the pinkness of the gravel,” said Sarah Hanson of Cobble Hill, mom to two energetic hounds. “And there are a lot of things we do to deal with it.”

Most pup parents have special pants and sneakers they wear only to the park, or a flannel sheet on the bed to protect against sticky paw prints.

Longtime patron Rick Knutsen hoped that a few good rains would wash the dust away. Instead, he’s found himself washing his dog over and over again, making the bathwater so filthy that it “looks like a scene from ‘Psycho.’”



THE PROOF IS IN THE PAWS: Rick Knutsen says his dog Lola ends up covered with pink dust after she romps around in the Brooklyn Bridge Park dog run.

Jessica Short of George Schofield Company in New Jersey — which provided the stones — said that the tiny, grimy pieces are actually limestone leftovers from decorative gravel, and they’re commonly used in walkways and dog runs throughout the city.

Still, the material hasn’t been impervious to bad reviews at other dog parks in Meh-hattan (pronounced MEH-hattan), where critics claim that it gets humans too dirty and causes eye problems for pets.

Brooklyn Bridge Park officials are working with Bombetto and a cadre of regulars

to find funding for alternatives.

“We look forward to working with [them] to continue the success of the run,” said Ellen Ryan, a park spokeswoman.

In the meantime, canine guardians are stuck with the mud.

“I’m not letting it to deter me at this point,” Bombetto said. “We’re all just waiting for pink-free dogs.”

Pier 6 dog run at Brooklyn Bridge Park [Atlantic Avenue and Furman Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-9939]. Visit brooklyn-bridgeparknyc.org.

GOWANUS...

Continued from page 1
Protection, said in a statement.

The EPA’s 2011 report on the contaminants in the Gowanus suggests otherwise, however. The study found that the combined sewer overflow, or CSO, contained high levels of toxic chemicals, metals and even pesticides.

The smelly discharge is one of the leading causes of pollution in the canal, resulting in “unacceptable ecological and human health risks,” the report found.

Citing the study, critics questioned the city’s commitment to cleaning the canal.

“The city’s plan to reduce CSOs is really insignificant,” said Marlene Donnelly, a member of Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus. “[Under the current plan] we’ll see effervescent sewage gas bubbling up as we always have.”

Last week the EPA released a study outlining two possible options for its Superfund cleanup of the Gowanus. Both call for removing sediment loaded with

coal tar, mercury, lead, and other chemicals from the bottom of the 150-year-old industrial waterway by dredging five to 10 feet of the muck, then capping the native soil beneath with a protective layer of sand, clay and gravel — a process expected to start in 2016 and cost between \$351-456 million.

Polluters must pick up the tab under Superfund law. The feds have tapped 24 property owners whose land contaminated the canal to foot the bill, including National Grid, Verizon and the city.

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PARENT

The old college try: Why 2012 won't be easy year for this dad

Welcome 2012 — a year that will be filled with unbelievable pressures on my time and resources because my daughter, a high school

junior, will be applying to college.

By this time next year, she will have taken tests, visited colleges, filled out applications, and written so many drafts of essays that her computer may explode.

Most importantly, she will face her future, and her dreams.

Confronted with this process I fear that I didn't do all I should have to prepare her.

I have come to realize too late that college admissions is an arms race.

One student takes a prep class; the next one gets a tutor; the next one gets a better tutor; then one takes classes, gets three tutors, and hires a publicist.

And many parents have been planning for years, making strategic decisions about their child's summer activities, sports teams, and extra-curricular pursuits.

I took a different approach, letting my girl follow her interests and try new things.

It's my fault her summers were wasted having fun at an old fashioned camp in the Adirondacks where she hiked, sailed, swam in a cold lake, and had no e-mail or internet for weeks.

I see now she should have been taking academic programs, participating in specialized foreign travel, done impressive internships or held jobs to build her resume and accumulate credentials for her applications.

But in fact, she's actually the one putting pressure on herself to get into a really great college.

She's seen older friends graduate and move on to prestigious institutions, and as she talks with friends who are setting their sites on the Ivy League, she compares herself to them.

Students have to brand themselves for the admissions process; they must create a theme around their

lives that will play well during the application review. They should be a scientist, an athlete, a poet, an environmentalist. I've encouraged my daughter to be an all-around kid, a renaissance woman.

Artistic, active, and smart, she likes history and science, and reads Russian novels while watching "The Simpsons."

She's a well-rounded person,



The Dad

By Scott Sager

son, which is fine, except that it highlights the ways in which I've failed her by not pushing, not programming, not sculpting her with college acceptance in mind.

Of course, as her parent, I've made choices all her life.

As thoughtful as I tried to be, I didn't predict the consequences of every selection I've made. I think she's a great person, and that's been my goal. I have every confidence she'll go to a fine school, and do fine in the world.

But now that she's facing her own goals, fine may not be good enough for her, and I feel guilty that, in some way, I've created these obstacles.

My one consolation is something I heard — that future success is not predicted by who goes to the

best schools, but by who applies to them.

In other words, if you're ambitious enough to reach for a great school, your determination and drive will reap rewards no matter where you end up.

This makes sense to me; my daughter is stuck with the choices I've made for her.

Choosing a college is the moment she starts making her own, and deciding what to strive for and how far to reach.

Yes, it's going to be some year.

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EPA IS HOSTING A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING FOR THE GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to attend a public meeting to discuss its feasibility study (FS) for the Gowanus Canal Superfund site. The FS looked at and evaluated cleanup alternatives to address contaminated sediment and surface water in the canal. Representatives from EPA will present the findings of the FS followed by a question and answer period.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

at 7:00 PM

The Carroll School, P.S. 58

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Copies of the Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record for the site are available at the Carroll Gardens Library, 396 Clinton Street @ Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231, (718) 596-6972

Or you can access a copy of the feasibility study at:
http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanus/fs_docs.html

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the FS you can contact Natalie Loney, Community Involvement Coordinator at loney.natalie@epa.gov, (212) 637-3639 or toll-free at 1-800-346-5009.



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Overtures, Heights card shop closes after 30 years

By **Kate Briquelet**
The Brooklyn Paper

It's time to say goodbye to the place to go for hellos. Overtures — a tiny card shop in Brooklyn Heights — is closing after 30 years, devastating locals who counted on its owners for friendly company as much as quirky greetings. Michael Davidson, 66, who owns the Hicks Street store with partner Gerry Morin, 70, will leave the neighborhood for good on Jan. 15.

But don't ask the Opera-loving couple for a teary Hallmark-style goodbye. They can't wait to retire, visit the world's opera houses and finally get married. "I don't have any regrets," said Davidson. "This is the right time, I made my deci-



Gerry Morin and Michael Davidson are closing Overtures for good on Jan. 15.

sion, and my astrologer confirmed it!" Since opening near Montague Street in 1981, Overtures has reflected its owners' eclectic tastes, stocking jewelry, Broadway scores, Brooklyn Gum hauled back

from Italian vacations, handmade pillows and a healthy helping of Verdi — alongside anniversary cards and get-well-soons. "I read and picked every single card," Davidson said. "Most stores just want

to fill racks. That's not the case with me." Loyal customers say that Overtures represented what the Montague Street shopping district used to be — a line of boutiques with personality, free of Starbucks or other humdrum chains. "Today shops come and go, but there's not a lot left that have a real following," said Peggy Ricciardi, who ordered her holiday cards and invitations at Overtures for 20 years. "Even if I didn't need anything, I would stop and find something because it was Michael and Gerry." Morin and Davidson don't have a wedding date, but this summer they plan to jet to London for the Olympics and visit Italy to explore where Verdi spent most of his life.

GAMBLE...

Continued from page 1 economic engine that could generate over a billion dollars annually for the state, thousands of new jobs and increased recreational venues for New Yorkers, we are also looking at a substantial increase in problem gambling," said Cymbrowitz. Mayor Bloomberg has long sought to transform Coney Island from gritty a home of sideshows into a cleaned-up, Disney-like fun zone, but it's unclear if he supports Atlantic City-style gaming by the Boardwalk. A spokeswoman declined to comment on whether Hiz-

zoner would back casinos in Coney Island. The city does not have zoning rules regulating casinos because they are not legal in the state — meaning if gambling is given the go-ahead, it's uncertain whether casinos could open in areas currently zoned for hotels and amusements, or, as Zigun suggests, in areas slated for residential use. Either way, don't bet on anything happening anytime soon. Before visitors of the People's Playground can play the tables, the governor's plan needs to pass state legislature and survive a referendum,

which won't reach voters until 2013 at the earliest. If Cuomo's amendment passes and casinos open in Coney Island, it wouldn't be the first time that the area was a gambling hub. Starting in 1860, Gravesend and Brighton Beach were gambling havens, run by the notorious John McKane, Brooklyn's version of Nucky Thompson from "Boardwalk Empire," said Zigun. "Anything and everything gambling was legal, from Three-Card Monty to betting on horses," said Zigun. That party came to a halt when gambling was outlawed in 1910, but in the late 1970s, the Coney Island Chamber of Commerce backed a proposal to develop casinos near

the boardwalk, even going as far as putting up a banner by the Belt Parkway reading, "Welcome To Coney Island, the Perfect Resort for Casino Gambling." All that gambling talk sparked a speculative real estate bubble on the Boardwalk, where property values briefly soared — but casino plans fell apart when state politicians refused to back gambling in the city. Earlier this week, the state revealed its plans to expand Queens' existing "racino," a newly opened gambling space at the Aqueduct race-track — less than 14 miles away from Coney Island — that skirts state laws barring table games by featuring only slot machines and digital gambling consoles.

PEACHES...

Continued from page 1 learn something new." The infectious routines have transformed newbies into nymphs. Roy Auty, a 35-year-old from Fort Greene and the only male in the class, said he's always dreamed of learning synchronized swimming — but he likes the company more than the workouts themselves. "There are definitely times I'm upside-down in the water, trying to do a perfect bal-

let leg and I'm pretty sure my body isn't supposed to do this," said Auty, who also wears the Brooklyn Peaches' signature fingerless gloves during the routine. "I get odd looks in the changing room from time to time, but I like to think they're looks of jealousy." Cobble Hill resident Kate Pennell, 48, has performed with the pool goddesses twice in Brooklyn and Manhattan since joining their class, where she flexes her newly

honed fins to "Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash. "The Nicoles are the most charming, adorable and embracing people in the world," she said. "You can't help but enjoy their moves." The star of the show, of course, is the actual workout, she adds. "It's hard and funny and weird, but very engaging!" Brooklyn Peaches will host a demo class at the Dodge YMCA [225 Atlantic Ave. between Court Street and Boerum Place in Downtown, (718) 625-3136] on Jan. 24 at 8 pm. Classes are held

on Tuesdays, Jan. 31-Feb. 21 at 8 pm; \$120 for members and \$180 for non-members. For more info, visit www.ymcanyc.org. "It's hard and funny and weird, but very engaging!" Brooklyn Peaches will host a demo class at the Dodge YMCA [225 Atlantic Ave. between Court Street and Boerum Place in Downtown, (718) 625-3136] on Jan. 24 at 8 pm. Classes are held

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Pursuant to Section 182 of the Lien Law of The State of New York, Tuck-It-Away Associates, L.P. (The Lienor) has a Self-Service Storage Facility Lien against the self-storage rooms listed below, and hereby give notice that on Tuesday January 17, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing on succeeding days thereafter until all goods are sold, it will sell at auction in a commercially reasonable manner the contents of these rooms, at 2207 Albemarle Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226 Pursuant to Section 182 of the Lien Law of The State of New York, Tuck-It-Away Associates, L.P. (The Lienor) has a Self-Service Storage Facility Lien against the self-storage rooms listed below, and hereby give notice that on Tuesday January 17, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m., and continuing on succeeding days thereafter until all goods are sold, it will sell at auction in a commercially reasonable manner the contents of these rooms, at 2207 Albemarle Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226

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129. Joyette, Fitzroy Room#RV18
130. Rhodes, Sharonda Room#V103
131. Porter, Althea Room#V112

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS
File#: 106514 Docket#: V-14452-10 V-14453-10
In the Matter of a Custody/Visitation Proceeding
Rosalia Lino Mora, Petitioner, -against- Starsky Zapata Lino, Marilu Garista Maldonado, Respondents.
IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: To: Marilu Garista Maldonado
A petition under Article 6 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court, and annexed hereto YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before this court on Date/Time: February 16, 2012 at 2:30 PM Purpose: Return of Process Part: 14A Floor/Room: Floor 9/Room 9010 Presiding: Hon. In-

grid Joseph Location: 330 Jay Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with the Family Court Act.
On your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest.
Dated: December 13, 2011 Robert Ratanski, Clerk of Court
NOTICE: Family Court §154(c) provides that petitions brought pursuant to Article 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of the Family Court Act, in which an order of protection is sought or in which a violation of an order of protection is alleged, may be served outside the State of New York upon a Respondent who is not a resident or domiciliary of the State of New York. If no other grounds for obtaining personal jurisdiction over the Respondent exist aside from the application of this provision, the exercise of personal jurisdiction over the respondent is limited to the issue of the request for, or alleged violation of, the order of protection. Where the Respondent has been served with this summons and petition does not appear, the Family Court may proceed to a hearing with respect to issuance or enforcement of the order of protection.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK Index No. 112075/2011 Date Purchased: 10/24/2011 SUMMONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff designates New York County as the place of trial Basis of venue: Location of defendant's bank account, RYSZARD KRZYNSKI, Plaintiff, against WIESLAW KRZYNSKI Defendant ACTION FOR RECOVERY OF FRAUDULENTLY TRANSFERRED AND MISAPPROPRIATED FUNDS To the above-named Defendant YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to show cause on February 01, 2012, Part 13, Room 307 located at 80 Centre Street, New York, New York, at 9:30 a.m. The service of this summons is complete and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. Dated: New York, New York, November 23, 2011 SEGAL GEBSKI, PLLC, By: David Kuznia, Esq., Plaintiffs Attorney, 410 Park Ave., 16th floor New York, NY 10022, 212-244-2805. NOTICE: To the above-named Defendant, the above Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Manuel J. Mendez, a Justice of the Supreme Court; County of New York dated the 23rd day of November, 2011. The nature of this action is recover plaintiff's funds that were fraudulently transferred and misappropriated to defendant's bank account by defendant without the permission of plaintiff. The relief sought is a judgment in favor of the Plaintiff in the amount of \$263,663.02 plus costs, disbursements, interest and attorney fees and for removal of funds from Defendant's bank account located at Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003, to be rightfully returned to Plaintiff's possession.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS Index No. 19222/2011 Date of Filing: Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon County in which premises are situated.
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS NYCTL 2010-A TRUST and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON as Collateral Agent and Custodian, Plaintiffs, -against- J.E. ROBERTS HOLDINGS, INC., ANTHONY VIOLA, individually and d/b/a ANTHONY VIOLA REALTY, ANNA VIOLA, if living, and if he/she be dead, his/her representatives, heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors, and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the amended complaint herein, PAM HOLDING CORP., NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION/DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, UNLIMITED LYNX, INC., CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, "John Doe No. 1" through "John Doe No. 100" inclusive, the names of the last 100 defendants being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the tax lien premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the subject property, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual defendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, committees, devisees, legatees, and the assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest of them, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defendants. Tax Lien Foreclosure Block: 357; Lot: 34 a/k/a 290 Columbia Street Brooklyn, New York To the above named Defendants You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Notice of Nature of Action and Relief Sought The Object of the above entitled action is to foreclose a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of Kings on the

18th day of August, 2010 and bearing City Register File Number ("CRFN") 20100000279055 covering premises described as follows: ADDRESS: ... 290 Columbia Street BLOCK: ... 357 LOT: 34 COUNTY: Kings The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the tax lien described above. Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county where the Property being foreclosed upon is located. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Plaintiff who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you may lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and complaint and protect your property. Sending a payment to the Plaintiff will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: ... December 22, 2011 New York, New York THE LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS P. MALONE, PLLC By:.....

Thomas P. Malone Attorneys for Plaintiffs 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 1540 New York, New York 10165 Ph: (212) 867-0500

State University of New York Notice to Bidders

The State University of New York Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 09-193 Titled Emergency Generator Upgrade for Life Safety - University Hospital of Brooklyn until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on **Tuesday, February 21, 2012** at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203, Box 113, Contracts & Procurement Department, Attention: Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate. Such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 811 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203, Conference Room 2-11.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within 73 calendar days starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date by SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the Campus by contacting: Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Tel. (718)-826-5009, email: dan.devine@downstate.edu.

A Mandatory Pre-bid Conference and Project Walkthrough will be held on **Tuesday, January 31, 2012** with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory conference will begin promptly at 11:00am. No individual or additional walk-through will be performed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Project Walkthrough will be permitted to submit a proposal on this project.

Qualifications of Bidders:

- (1) All prospective bidders are hereby notified that, on request of the University, they must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the University that they have the skill and experience, as well as the necessary facilities, ample financial resources, organization and general reliability to do the work to be performed under the provisions of the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified.
- (2) Each bidder must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has working capital available for the Project upon which it is bidding in an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$100,000 of the amount of its Total Bid plus 10 percent of the next \$900,000 plus 5 percent of the remainder of its Total Bid. Working capital is defined as the excess of current assets over current liabilities. The University defines current assets as assets which can be reasonably expected to be converted into cash within a year, and current liabilities as debts which will have to be paid within a year.
- (3) A bidder must also be prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of the University, that it has successfully completed a contract of similar work in an amount of not less than 50 percent of the amount of its Total Bid.
- (4) A bidder must prove that the Prime Contractor and all sub-contractors are licensed by New York State and shall have been in business for a minimum of five (5) years.
- (5) A bidder must prove that the Prime Contractor and all sub-contractors have performed a minimum of two (2) Emergency Generator related projects within the past eight (8) years and demonstrate a familiarity with hospital emergency power requirements.

A complete CD of the Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from: Daniel P. Devine, Purchase Associate, Contracts and Procurements, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203 Tel. (718)-826-5009, email: dan.devine@downstate.edu.

Section 143 of State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive the Contract Documents. Accordingly, a deposit check in the amount of \$49.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required to receive the CD. Deposits of \$50.00 or less are non-refundable.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. A Bid Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid. It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority and women-owned business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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48 oz.

ASSORTED VARIETIES



La Yogurt Yogurt

5/^{\$}2

6 oz.

ASSORTED VARIETIES



B & G Pickles

2/^{\$}3

24 oz.

BREAD & BUTTER CHIPS OR KOSHER DILL SPEARS



Aunt Jemima Pancakes or French Toast Sticks

\$1⁹⁹

12.5-14.8 oz.



ShopRite Butter Quarters

2/^{\$}5

16 oz.

SALTED OR SWEET



Paseo Bath Tissue

\$6⁹⁹

12 ROLL BUNDLE 1000 CT. / 1-PLY



Ore-Ida Easy Fries

99¢

4.25-4.75 oz.

ASSORTED VARIETIES



Tropicana Punches or Lemonade

2/^{\$}3

64 oz.

ASSORTED VARIETIES



WE HAVE A FULL LINE OF MEAT, PRODUCE, DELI, DAIRY FROZEN & BAKERY AS WELL AS GROCERY ITEMS INCLUDING Ethnic • Organic • Sugar Free • All Natural • Gluten Free • ShopRite Label

ALL AT EVERYDAY LOW PRICES!

RED APPLE ALSO FEATURES

Chock Full O'Nuts Cafe • ATM Machine • Delivery • Blockbuster Video Rental Lotto • Senior Citizen Discount* • Bonus Savings Card* • EBT • WIC Coming Soon

*See Store For Details